

Washington State Attorney General – Labor and Personnel Division
January 30, 2017

Travel Advisory

The President signed an Executive Order that suspended the entry of foreign nationals from seven countries into the United States for a period of 90 days, including Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, and Iran. Although the ban will be issued for a 90-day period at this time, it may be extended, and could be expanded to additional countries. The ban applies to both “immigrants and nonimmigrants,” which means that it covers those with a temporary visa, foreign nationals holding a U.S. immigrant visa, and U.S. lawful permanent residents. Several legal challenges have been filed and the scope of the Executive Order is in a state of flux.

Foreign Nationals Subject to Ban Should Avoid International Travel

If you have an employee who is currently on a nonimmigrant visa or a lawful permanent resident who is a national or dual national of any of the listed seven countries, we recommend that they avoid any international travel at this time and remain in the United States. Foreign nationals who are subject to the ban and are already in the United States should avoid international travel for at least the next 90 days. Those who are currently out of the United States will likely be denied re-entry into the U.S. while this ban is in effect. While there are reports that those holding permanent residency are no longer subject to the Executive Order we believe the situation is too fluid to rely on such statements.

Processing Delays for Nonimmigrant & Immigrant Visa Applications

We anticipate that all applications and petitions filed with USCIS for individuals from the above listed seven countries will be subject to additional scrutiny and delays in processing. The order also halts visa issuance to countries of “particular concern” for a period of 60 days. After 60 days, DHS, the State Department and the Director National Intelligence are instructed to draft a list of countries that do not comply with requests for information. Foreign nationals from those countries will be banned from entering the U.S.